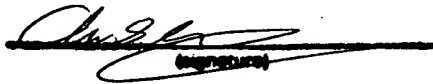


## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical head apparatus capable of stably obtaining a detection signal of spherical aberration even with a high density optical disk. A spherical aberration error signal is obtained by: dividing the returning light  
5 from the optical disk into a transmitted light and a diffracted light;  
reproducing information with the transmitted light having a larger amount of light while dividing the diffracted light having a small amount of light into two regions, i.e., region near the optical axis and a region distant from the optical axis; determining amounts of focus deviation in respective regions as  
10 focus error signals; and taking the difference signal therebetween. Thus, it is possible to detect the amount of spherical aberration with the SN ratio of the information reproducing signal kept at high level.

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